



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Mission
and Development

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The LWF Communion Prayer in Solidarity with Churches and Communities Affected by the Ebola Crisis

28 September 2014

Preamble

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is calling on churches throughout the Lutheran communion to join in prayers on Sunday, 28 September, and stand in solidarity with the member churches affected by the Ebola crisis in the West and Central African countries of: Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

*The Lutheran churches in that region have suggested the **Intercession Prayers** below.*

Leader: God of Mercy, Creator, Savior and Sustainer, we come to Your throne of mercy, bowed down and wearied by the load of suffering and disaster visited upon our nations of Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone, by the Ebola virus. O God, we are your creation, you created us in your own image, an image that is now suffering. We have lost relatives, church workers, doctors, nurses, work mates and many more, even the animals and other creation is suffering. Now, O God, hear the prayers and petitions of your children. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your people, Lord come to us quickly and heal these lands. **Lord in your Mercy**

All: Hear our prayers

Leader: Dear God, we are covered with shame because of our unfaithfulness to you .O loving Lord, while we have been unfaithful you have remained faithful. You were faithful to our ancestors, to our fathers and our mothers. You remain faithful to us even today. And that is why we can come to your throne of mercy once more as communion of churches globally, pouring our hearts and seeking your loving kindness and grace; not

because we deserve it but because of your nature, you are a forgiving and grace-filled God. We pray that your mighty healing hand continues to touch these nations and restore healing and wholeness. We pray that you provide your people the necessary wisdom, knowledge and skills to identify and come up with solutions, medical or otherwise.

Lord in your mercy.

All: Here our prayers

Leader: We acknowledge our failures before You, we have not been faithful to you as nations across the globe, and we have not been faithful as churches universal, nor as individual or families. It is possible that our ways of acting and reacting towards this scorch have contributed to more suffering to your people. Probably, we somehow took it lightly, thinking it would be over in only a few days. Yet, several months have passed. For these failings, we ask your pardon. Open our eyes to see our shortcomings and the need for change and your salvation. Grant that we, your children may courageously speak to our needy communities and nations.

Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayers

Leader: O God, we ask you to soothe the hearts of all people affected in many ways by the epidemic. Comfort them by Your Gospel, strengthen the weak and afflicted, and lighten the burden and accompany them as they continue the fight. Above all, let the fruits of those labors faithfully flow richly in sympathy and mutual care for one another. Enable us to use our opportunities in resources and gifts to your glory and the good of others. **Lord in your mercy**

All: Hear our prayers

Leader: Give us courage O Lord to continue accompanying one another even in this challenging journey as we understand that in Your grace we are not altogether lost, but find hope, healing and peace in You. We put our trust in you our Emmanuel, God with and within us, as you promised never to leave us until the end of ages. So, O Lord, give us the grace to seek Your face, to trust in You, and to confess You and only You. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: AMEN

The prayers of intercession close with the Lord's Prayer in our many languages

Suggested readings:

1st reading: Isaiah 44: 1-5

2nd reading: Philippians 2: 1-13

3rd reading Gospel: Matthew 20: 29-34 or John 8: 42-48 or Luke 17: 13-19

Psalms: 25: 1-9, or 23